

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (original) A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery, the device comprising a sleeve having an exit aperture and an entry aperture, the sleeve being shaped and dimensioned to permit the passage of a hand therethrough; and a distensible member secured to or formed integrally about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture.
2. (original) A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the distensible member is generally annular in form and is located circumferentially about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture, preferably at the exit aperture.
3. (currently amended) A surgical device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ in which the distensible member comprises a plurality of distensible sections arranged in an annular array or in a series of annular arrays adjacent the exit aperture, preferably at the exit aperture.
4. (original) A surgical device according to claim 3 in which the plurality of distensible sections may be individually, sequentially or simultaneously distended.
5. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the distensible member is secured to an exterior of the sleeve and is arranged to distend away from the arm, in use.
6. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the entry aperture has a larger cross sectional area than the exit aperture.
7. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the sleeve is substantially frustum shaped.
8. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the sleeve is formed from a flexible material.

9. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the sleeve is shaped and dimensioned to permit the passage of a surgeon's hand therethrough and to accommodate at least a surgeon's forearm, in use.

10. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the sleeve is formed from a fluid impermeable material.

11. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the device further comprises a reinforcing member located about the entry aperture of the sleeve, in order to hold open the entry aperture.

12. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the device comprises means operable to seal the exit aperture from the entry aperture.

13. (original) A surgical device according to claim 12 in which the sealing means comprises a one way valve.

14. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the sleeve is provided with a lubricant on an interior surface thereof.

15. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the device further comprises means for conveying a fibre optic camera along the length of the sleeve.

16. (original) A surgical device according to claim 15 in which the conveying means comprises a passage extending along the length of the sleeve.

17. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the device further comprises a cover releasably securable about the entry aperture, in order to fluid-tightly seal the entry aperture.

18. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the sleeve is substantially transparent.

19. (currently amended) A surgical device according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which the device further comprises a cuff located circumferentially or annularly about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture of the sleeve.

20. (currently amended) A method of distending a surgical cavity, the method comprising the steps of;

providing a surgical device according to ~~any of claims 1 to 19~~ claim 1;

passing a hand through the sleeve of the device;

inserting at least the distensible member of the device into the surgical cavity; and

distending the distensible member.